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XLV.—On *Saxifraga umbrosa* and the Kerry Saxifrages. By
the Rev. W. T. BREE.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the review of Baines's 'Flora of Yorkshire' (Annals and Mag. of Nat. Hist. for Nov., p. 217), mention is made of *Saxifraga umbrosa* being "exceedingly abundant in the west and south-west of Ireland." This, I cannot help thinking, is an error; at least, I can confidently state from close inspection on the spot, that the plant which occurs in such profusion in the "Gap of Dunloe," e. g., and on the "Reecks" and many other places in the neighbourhood of Killarney, is not the true *S. umbrosa*, but an allied species; or perhaps it might be more correct to say, that these Kerry Saxifrages consist of several species, two forms or varieties of which are figured in 'English Botany' under the names of *S. Geum* and *hirsuta*; but whether they correspond with the Linnæan species so named, admits, I think, of great doubt. On the mountains of the county of Kerry these plants (be they of two, or more, or only of one species) occur, as I have said, in very great abundance; and the varieties, differing in the size, shape, and hairiness of the leaves, and in the length of the petiole, between what may be considered the two extreme links of the chain or series, are absolutely interminable*. But after the most diligent personal search, I was unable to discover *S. umbrosa* on the Irish mountains, when I visited that country in the year 1814; and from the best information I could obtain from persons most competent to form a judgement on the subject, I was led to believe that the latter species was not there known as a native of Ireland. Is it, in fact, a *genuine* native of Britain? Some years ago I was at no inconsiderable pains to settle this question, or, in other words, to meet with *S. umbrosa* growing

* See Haworth's Saxifragearum Enumeratio.

truly wild and at large. I recollect to have once found a very small weak plant of it upon the celebrated "Bowder Stone" in Borrowdale, which at the time I thought a treasure; but I was soon afterwards informed, that some person in the neighbourhood had been ornamenting this interesting rock by planting garden-flowers upon it, of which, no doubt, this crumb of "London Pride" was a remnant. Mr. Russell, I see in your Number for Dec. (p. 314), states that he had received the plant some years ago from Clovelly, and that he has this year "verified the locality himself," and "is much inclined to admit the station as a true one." Of the correctness of this statement I do not mean to venture an opinion, not having visited the place myself. But with this exception, if it prove to be one, I am much disposed to coincide with Mr. Baines's reviewer (p. 216), that the plant in question "is hardly found in England, except in Yorkshire." I have visited the wild sequestered station, "Hessleton Gill," in that county, and have there found *S. umbrosa* growing luxuriantly and apparently wild, though occupying a space of no very great extent, and am not surprised at any botanist asserting that here, at any rate, the plant is truly native. I could, however, assign reasons, which yet it would be tedious to detail at length, for *suspecting*, if not for believing, that even here, in this retired spot, the plant is not truly indigenous, but introduced by the hand of man; and, in short, that *S. umbrosa*, the "London Pride" of our gardens, is not of native but exotic origin, though it has been, in a manner, naturalized in various parts of our island.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. T. BREE.

Allesley Rectory, near Coventry, Dec. 22, 1840.

XLVI.—*On some new or rare Fish occurring on the Coast of Ireland.* By FREDERICK M'COY, Esq., M.G.S., &c.

THE following notices of new or rare fish found on the coast of Ireland, have been drawn up from specimens contained, for the most part, in the Museum of the Royal Dublin Society, and which have been, with few exceptions, taken during the last winter by Mr. William MacCalla, a very intelligent and successful collector of marine productions. Besides the subjects of the present communication, he has enriched the Society's collection with many rare and interesting species of Crustacea and naked Mollusca from different parts of the coast, which may, perhaps, form the subject of a